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Senior reaches goal after traveling across the country solo.
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WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 28, 2001

Marketing department prepares for fundrais-

■**EVENTS:** With the success of years past, the benefits plan to entertain and entice party-goers with prizes

By AMY ADAMS
Daily Titan Staff Writer

It's all in the planning. Thanks to the marketing department at Cal State Fullerton, thousands of dollars will be raised to benefit student-related projects, programs and scholarships.

CSUF's marketing department works year-round to develop the largest university auction, Bid of Excitement and Front & Center event.

FRONT & CENTER

Holiday tree up in TSU

■**CAMPUS:** After first deciding against the Yule-tide decoration, officials opted for an inclusive theme

By MICHELLE LARA
Daily Titan Staff Writer

The Titan Student Union is celebrating and educating students on different religious holidays this year by replacing their usual Christmas tree with a new "Holiday Tree."

The tree is decorated with lights and holds four large scrolls, each explaining the history of a different holiday, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Ramadan.

This final decision came about after much discussion from TSU officials and the Associated Students Board.

First, TSU officials decided that this year the usual 10-foot tree would be replaced with winter-theme decorations of snowmen and snowflakes.

That decision, prompted by comments dropped in to the TSU comment box, began forming at the end of last year's holiday season.

The complaints that several students and faculty had stated that the Christmas tree in the lobby focused only on the Christian aspect of the holidays and did not celebrate all of the many different religious holidays.

So the TSU decorated the lobby with two snowmen and snowflakes hanging from the ceiling.

"After the feedback from last year, we had a discussion to decide what we could do," said Chip Wess assistant director of programs and services at the TSU "We made this first decision because we wanted to project inclusiveness. We

HOLIDAY/ 4



MICHELLE LARA/Daily Titan
TSU's holiday tree gives history of different religious holidays.

Front & Center is the nation's largest higher education annual gala and an event most appreciated for its entertainment. It's an event created as a scholarship fundraiser for CSUF. The highlight of the event is a performance by the award-winning College of the Arts Theater and Dance Department.

As a musical tribute to Bob Newhart, 20 CSUF students will present an evening of song and dance. A special guest appearance by celebrity Christopher Reeve, who will give a 20-minute speech, will also be featured.

"This event raises the image of the university, and its purpose is to let people know that the students at Cal State Fullerton are talented," said Stephanie McCombie, director of Major Events.

Net proceeds will benefit various student scholarships, individual president

scholars, theater and dance department students and the Bright Environment Biology Scholar Endowment Fund.

"The event has helped to increase the number of presidential scholars from 45 to 104 scholars," said Milton Gordon, University President. "It is also the event that gives us the most visibility in the Orange County community."

The President's Scholars Program is designed to recognize academically accomplished students from high schools in Southern California.

Contributions are made to create an endowment fund to support one student's education, as a donation from each patron of the president's associates. Proceeds accrued from Front & Center will be used to offer National Merit Scholarship finalists the opportunity to attend CSUF as a President's Scholar.

In order to ensure the legacy of the program, Front & Center established an endowment in the name of the Orange County Person of the Year.

The event, which began in 1996, will recognize Henry Nicholas, CEO of Broadcom Inc. as the Orange County Person of the Year.

The black-tie event will begin at 5 p.m., Feb. 2 at the Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim. The doors will open and guests will be greeted with champagne. At 6 p.m., guests will be escorted to well-lit tables over the ice.

The Hyatt Regency will cater dinner, a course chosen by the Blue Ribbon Organization—community and friends of the university.

The performance will begin promptly at 8 p.m.

Premium tables, with priority location, are available for \$10,000, seating

a table of 10.

Tables for table sponsors are \$5,000. Individual tickets are also available ranging from \$500 to \$25,00. More than 6,000 attendees are expected to attend this year's event.

"Every year brings in new supporters, and it has been the greatest event for the university," Gordon said.

BID OF EXCITEMENT

Bid of Excitement is the world's largest annual university auction and is highly recognized for its outrageous auction items. In it's 11th year, Bid of Excitement is an event that features silent and live auctions and a dinner buffet.

"We spend the entire year planning for these events," McCombie said. "The research involved is very labor

intensive."

The department solicits donations for an entire year, from businesses and organizations within Orange and Los Angeles counties. Last year's Bid of Excitement, sponsored by vendors such as American Express and Pepsi, earned more than \$1 million dollars.

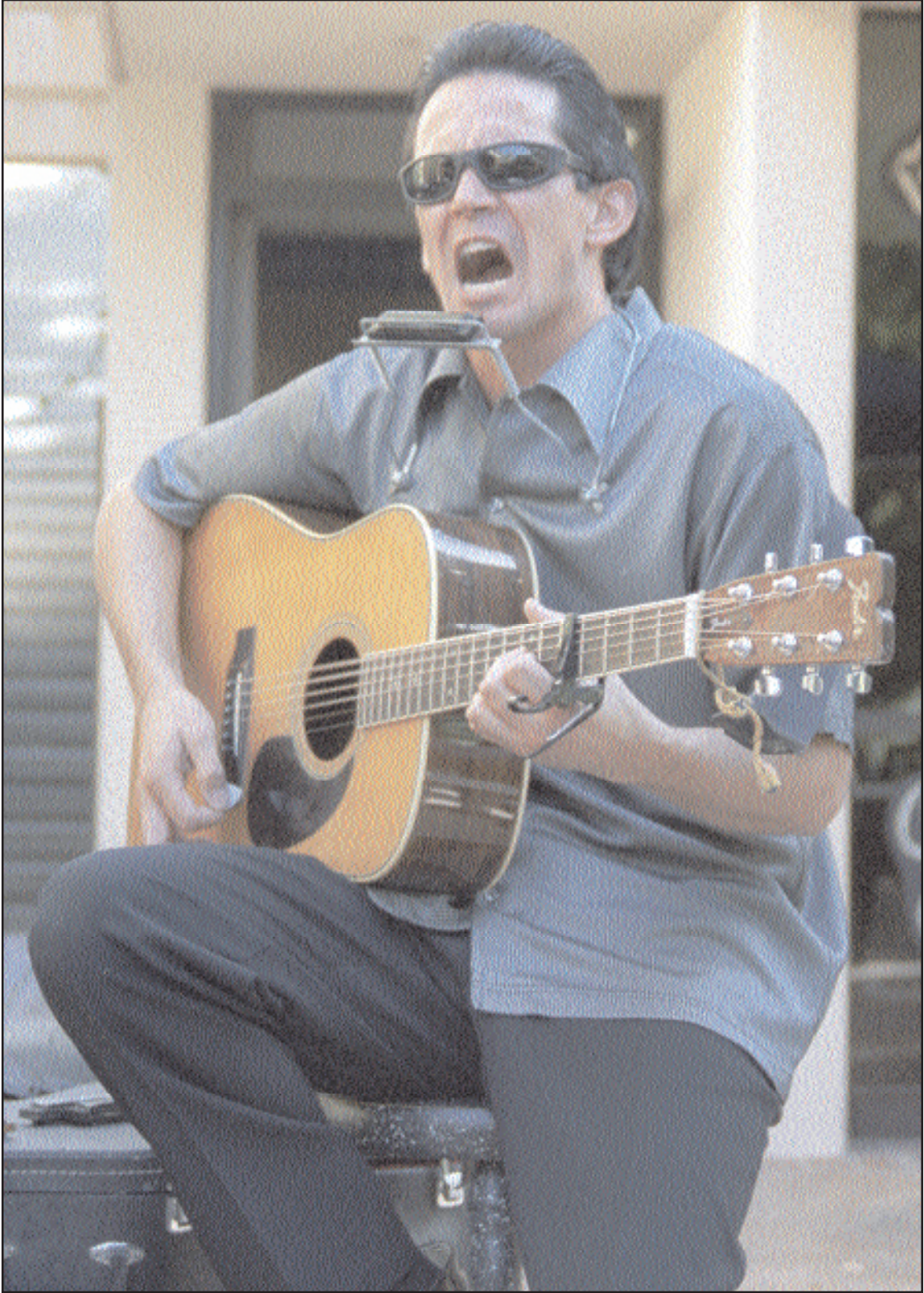
Proceeds from the event will be allocated to restricted projects and programs.

The event begins at 5 p.m. in the Titan Gym. The silent auction opens the evening, primarily featuring travel-related items. More than 1,000 donated items are expected to be at the silent auction. The suggested retail value of some of the items donated can be as low as \$1,000 and as high as \$10,000.

Comedian Ben Stein from "Win

FUNDRAISER/ 4

Music man



MICHELLE LARA/Daily Titan
Graduate student Lu Urquidi sings and plays the guitar and harmonica at the Garden Cafe.

Students get help on their final papers

■**AID:** Appointments are needed as the demand for assistance increases at the end of the fall semester

By BETH J. PASSARELLA
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Asha Pandurangi, an undeclared freshman, taps her pen on her papers as she waits in the Writing Assistance Center for the next available tutor. Waiting for a tutor during the last few weeks of the semester is something all students should anticipate as they cram and squeeze in appointments before finals.

"It's chaotic toward the end of the semester," said Gina Ro, an English major and tutor at the Writing Assistance Center. "In the afternoons, there's usually a line out the door."

Pandurangi visits the Writing Assistance Center throughout the semester.

"It helps me organize my writing so it flows," she said. "I've come here five or six times this semester. I've brought in papers for anthropology, history, everything. They are really helpful."

Cal State Fullerton's Writing Assistance Center offers free tutoring for students who want help with their writing. Some English courses require the students to visit the center three times per semester. Other students, however, come in voluntarily to polish their work.

"We're here to help mentor students and get them over their writing phobias," Ro said. "Most of the students

want to work on structure, organization and revision."

The Writing Assistance Center, located in the lower level of McCarthy Hall, relies on student tutors rather than professors to run the half-hour sessions.

"There's something to be said about peer reviews in comparison to a professor's," said Ro. "Students feel more comfortable with a peer, I think."

The majority of the tutors at the center aspire to work in education upon graduation.

"I want to teach someday," said senior Michelle Bullard. "This gives me the experience I need. If you can teach someone else how to write, you are a valuable asset."

Because of the high demand for the Writing Assistance Center, students are urged to make appointments rather than walk in. A one-hour cancellation is set so another student requiring assistance can fill their slot.

A typical tutoring session will include brainstorming if a student is having difficulty choosing a topic. Once a topic is chosen, the tutor will read the first draft out loud and ask the student what they want to work on. Then the tutor will make other suggestions.

"There are some students who came here the first time because their professors required them to," Bullard said. "But they continue to come here for other classes. It's really rewarding to see their improvement."

Erick Tapia, 18, visited the writing center this week for the first time.

"I have a paper due today, and I know I'm a procrastinator, but I still have a little time to get help on it," he said. "If my session today is really



BETH J. PASSARELLA/Daily Titan
Leslie Buck, left, goes over psychology major Brenda Perez' essay.

Some think happily-ever-afters aren't what they used to

■**LOVE:** Priorities have shifted from getting married at a young age to accomplishing more before uniting

By HEATHER BAER
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Boy meets girl.
Boy proposes to girl.
Boy and girl get married at 19, live in a house with a picket fence and have 2.2 children.
Not anymore.

For most college-age students, 18 to 29, marriage is not viewed the same way as our parents once viewed

it.

Many college students are waiting to get married at an older age.

"I want to finish school and be financially stable before I even think about marriage," Lance Delrosario, a computer information services major said. "There are just some things I need to do for myself before getting married."

Delrosario is not alone. While the baby-boomer generation got married in their early 20s, many more people now are waiting until their late 20s and 30s to get married.

Allan Axelrad, professor of American Studies, said the practice of getting married later than the generation before us has been something which has progressed over time.

"A big change occurred after the baby-boom generation was born,"

Axelrad said. "The generation before the baby boomers lived through the depression and World War II. The generation who created the baby boomers had cheap housing and loans, making marriage more of an option."

Axelrad said that the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s is a factor why people are waiting to get married.

"In the 50s, women were raised to be housewives and to define their lives by that role," Axelrad said. "Back then, it was believed that women went to school to find husbands, not necessarily an education. Today, while most women still want to get married, their identity is not defined by it. They are educated and pursuing careers. Being successful means more than just being married."

Amie Poling, a 23-year-old Cal

State Long Beach graduate, said that it will be awhile before she gets married.

"I still feel very young and know that I am not ready for the responsibility of marriage," Poling said. "There are so many things that I want for myself. Plus, I still feel very young. Even though my parents were married by the time they were my age, it still doesn't feel right."

Poling's older sister Melissa Veit, 25, was married in July leaving Poling to contemplate her future.

"Watching my sister get married made me realize that it is something which I want badly for my life," Poling said. "It has been confusing because I can't understand how I can want something so badly, which terrifies me right now and know that I am not ready for it."

Poling said that before she can ever get married, she wants to get settled into her career and have a better sense of self.

"Our generation is not defined by marriage," Poling said. "It is in our 20s that we find out who we are and what we want for ourselves. If we get married too soon, there is a chance we will lose our identity and never get to fully explore who we are."

Joseph Fitzgerald, who works in the Property Assets Department at Cal State Fullerton, said that although his parents married at a younger age, he is also waiting to get married.

"My grandparents were married at 15-years-old and my parents were married at 20, I am 28 going on 29 and don't see marriage in my near

MARRIAGE/ 4

two

A GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING

BRIEFS

Hunt Library rings in the holiday season

The Hunt Branch Library will ring in the holiday season Tuesday, Dec. 4 with a "Family Night Program" at 7 p.m. The event will include stories, puppets and songs. It is designed for children ages 3-8 and their families.

Highlighting the program will be the tale of the "Holiday Cookie Sprinkle Snitcher" presented, along with other stories, by master puppeteer and librarian Janine Jacobs. Since the performance is interactive, audience members are invited to join in.

Other festivities will include a sing-along of holiday favorites. Admission to the program is free, however, tickets are required due to limited space. Free tickets may be obtained at the Hunt Branch Library, at 201 S. Basque Ave, in southwest Fullerton.

Hours are Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, call the library at (714) 738-3122.

Parents of children requiring special accommodations to attend the "Family Night Program" are asked to notify library staff prior to Dec. 4.

Annual flu clinic set

Happiness through good health will be the goal of the Fullerton Senior Multi-Service Center's annual Flu Clinic to occur Thursday, Nov. 29.

The clinic, which is free to seniors, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the center, located at 340 W. Commonwealth Ave.

The clinic will offer shots to protect against this winter's

flu. Sources said that since the flu season does not peak until January or February, people have enough time in November to receive the shot.

Individuals who are allergic to eggs, or who are running a fever the day of the clinic should not receive the immunizations.

At the same time as the clinic, the Senior Center will also be hosting a mini-craft fair. Proceeds from the craft sales will go toward service projects for the Needlecrafters and Caring Companions.

The event is sponsored by the Fullerton Community Services Department, the American Red Cross, Preventive Health Care for the Aging and the Orange County Health Care Agency.

Further information about the event may be obtained by calling the Senior Multi-Service Center at (714) 738-6305.

People requiring special accommodations are asked to notify the center in advance of the clinic.

Snow Play Day at the Brea Community Center

The Brea Community Center is turning into a Winter Wonderland for Snow Play Day on Saturday, Dec. 15 between 8 a.m. and noon.

A pancake breakfast will be served by the Brea Lions Club from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Kids can play outside in 40 tons of snow. There is also a snow-making contest.

Tickets may be purchased for \$15 for a family and \$5 individually. It is recommended to purchase them early because the event does sell out and no tickets are available on the day of the event.

For more information, call (714) 990-7600.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Community----

"Renaissance," a club for people 21 and over, is taking place every Thursday night at Geckos in Huntington Beach. The club features three full bars, and is featuring Disc Jockey Soltani and DJ Re. The club also has two music rooms and will have \$1 well drinks.

The City of Fullerton will host a "Winterfest" Dec. 8. There will be crafts, horse-drawn carriage rides and snow in the Downtown Plaza from noon until 6 p.m. There will also be a Christmas tree and Menorah lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. For more information, call (714) 738-6317.-

Brea's Civic and Cultural Center are having their annual "Tree Lighting Celebration" Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. Music and entertainment will be provided and refreshments will be available.-

The Anaheim Ballet presents the "Nutcracker" at Anaheim High School Dec. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12-\$16. For more information, call (800) 965-4827.--

The "Glory of Christmas" will be at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. More than

200 members will recreate the famous nativity scene Nov. 24-30. For more information, call (714) 544-5679.--

Laguna Beach's Winter Festival continues to line the grounds of the Sawdust Festival with entertainment and food through December. The celebration will feature 150 artists who have made holiday items. --

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center Foundation is presenting a Holiday Americana Home Tour, Floral Demonstrations, Boutique and Luncheon Dec. 1. The events will take place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. A donation of \$25 per person is recommended. Funds will benefit the Muckenthaler Cultural Center Foundation. For more information, call (714) 738-6595.--

The Relationship Building Network is hosting their BUSINESS Expo/Trade Show Dec. 4 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Newport Fish Company and there is a \$10 admission charge. There will be appetizers, entertainment and prizes.---

The City of Brea and the National Watercolor Society

are presenting the 81st annual "National Watercolor Juried Exhibition" through Dec. 9. The exhibit will feature more than 100 watercolor paintings from artists around the world. For more information, call (714) 990-7730.---

Campus---

A Lecture on "Nurturing Your Soul and Improving Quality of Life" will be held Dec. 5 from noon to 1 p.m. The Student Diversity Program is sponsoring a discussion that will be presented by Dr. Matthew Harris in University Hall Room 138. For more information, call (714) 278-4575.

The Golden Key Honor Society's new member induction ceremony will be held Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. in the Titan Student Union Pavilions. For more information, call Jason Lorge at (714) 278-4804 or e-mail Golden Key at csuf_goldenkey@yahoo.com.

The University Wind Ensemble will perform Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center's Little Theatre. Songs include "Cuban Overture" and "Southern Harmony." Tickets can be purchased for \$8 or \$5 with the advanced Titan discount.-

The Nuclear Whales Saxophone Orchestra will perform Dec. 1 at Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton. Tickets are available at the CSUF Performing Arts Center Box Office, with a Titan discount available to those who have a valid CSUF identification. Tickets are \$25. For more information, visit www.arts.fullerton.edu/events.-

"Glassworks 2001" will be at the Grand Central Art Center Rental and Sales Gallery Dec. 1 through Jan. 13. This event is the third annual exhibition. The opening reception will be held Dec. 1 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.-

"Scapin," a comedy about a servant who makes up tales about kidnapping and foreigners, continues to play at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana through Dec. 2. Tickets may be purchased at CSUF. For more information, call (714) 278-3371.--

Camp Titan is having a Holiday Toy Drive through Dec. 14. Bring an unwrapped toy to the Titan Student Union Information and Services desk to help support underprivileged children.

http://dailytitan.fullerton.edu

Dr. Anderson
2*3

Planned
Parenthood

AA Copy 2*2

Contractors
Exam 2*8

Golden West
2*6



- DARLEENE BARRIENTOS
- LORI ANDERSON
- SAMANTHA GONZAGA
- MAGDA LISZEWSKA
- ROBERT SAGE
- CHARLES DAVIS
- GUS GARCIA
- AMY ROTTIER
- HEATHER BLAIR
- RITA FREEMAN
- MELANIE BYSOUTH
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Volunteerism rises over holiday sea-

■**SERVICE:** There are many resources on campus for students to choose from when donating time, goods

By REENA DE ASIS
Special to the Titan

The holidays are here and the season of giving is greeted with open arms at Cal State Fullerton. This time of year, many students volunteer to help feed the homeless or drop off toys for abused children.

In the spirit of giving, people are inspired to participate in social service activities, while some choose to do it as their profession.

The campus has a wealth of resources available to students who are pursuing a career in service-oriented fields or who simply want to be more involved in the nonprofit community. Opportunities range from volunteer and internship work to earning a nonprofit organizational leadership certificate.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

According to a 1999 report by

the Independent Sector, "Giving and Volunteering in the United States," more than eight out of 10 people said they volunteered because they felt compassion for those in need.

Nearly three-fourths of the respondents volunteered because they had an interest in the activity or work, and 70 percent volunteered to gain a new perspective on things. This report was based on interviews with respondents who were asked about patterns of volunteering and giving in their households during 1998.

The Volunteer and Service Center in the Titan Student Union takes the lead in directing volunteer opportunities on campus.

Students are given the opportunity to partake in various service-oriented projects, led and coordinated by fellow students. The newest project is the V-Day College Campaign, geared to stop violence towards women. The campaign is producing a benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues" and needs people to assist in publicity efforts, from posting flyers, acting as class liaisons and assisting in fundraising opportunities. Maiko King is the project director and assists in volunteer orientations and opportunities.

"I want women to know they aren't alone in their despair, shame, anger or even excitement and sensuality," King said.

The V-Day College Campaign will be donating the majority of its proceeds to an Orange County organization that supports the V-Day mission, such as battered women's shelters or rape crisis centers. This project is in sync to the center's slogan, "Hey it's your world...CHANGE IT."

The Volunteer and Service Center also offers various programs for students, such as Titan Partners, Introducing My Culture, CommUNITY Connection, Call to Protect, College Headed And Mighty Proud, Project Earth, Box of Love Holiday Food Program and Food Delivery and Packaging. The programs are funded by the Dean of Students and directed by Sabrina Sanders.

Sanders advocates students to become project directors for a more "hands on" experience. Project directors develop, coordinate, implement and evaluate the community service project they are responsible for.

The Volunteer and Service Center is open to all majors, faculty and staff members.

For human services, child and adolescent studies and counseling, the fieldwork office of the Division of Child, Family and Community Service has a wealth of resources on internship opportunities and nonprofit organizations. Students who are human services majors are required to take three



MICHELLE LARA/Daily Titan

Jenny Cheng speaks with others in charge of CHAMP.

fieldwork classes. Child and adolescent studies students are required to take one fieldwork class. Counseling students are required to take two practicum courses. The division fieldwork office provides a listing of more than 100 approved agencies, mainly from the nonprofit sector.

Julie Martinez, Fieldwork Coordinator said students gain a valuable career related experience and a chance to test a particular field as an intern for a nonprofit agency. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge taught

in the classroom to the real world. Students have the flexibility to work in the field of gerontology, education, domestic violence, community organization, substance or child abuse and many others. Martinez finds learning new skills in a student's field to be most beneficial.

"It is a win-win situation for both the student and agency," she said. "Students are given the training and learn new skills and the community-based agencies receive assistance in return."

MARRIAGE

■from page 1

future," Fitzgerald said. "Of course marriage is something that I want for myself one day, but I want to be financially stable first and have a house."

Fitzgerald said that although his parents' generation got married at a young age, he is now finding out that his friends who got married at a younger age are not as happy.

"Most of my friends who got married young are either divorced already or are broke," Fitzgerald said. "They rushed into it too young and now things are hard for them."

Axelrad said real estate is another factor as to why people are waiting to get married.

"People want to own their homes and right now it is very expensive to live in the Orange County area," Axelrad said. "This is complicating things because people want their security before getting married."

Despite her desire to be married, Poling believes that marriage is worth waiting for.

"I have seen so many people who have gotten married young and it didn't work out for them," Poling said. "I will be married one day, I just want more for myself right now. I want to establish my own life, before sharing it with somebody else."

FUNDRAISER

■from page 1

Ben Stein's Money" on The Comedy Channel, will host the event, and John Moschitta, of the Federal Express commercials, will be the auctioneer.

Once the silent auction ends, guests will move to the Titan Student Union for the buffet and live auction. When the auction begins and the TSU doors open, "people are literally running to the bidding tables," McCombie said.

During the live auction, guests will

have the option of bidding on worldwide vacation destinations. A package trip might include a trip to Maui Renaissance Wailea Beach Resort or a four-night stay at a five-star property in Brazil.

At the beginning of the event, guests will be given bid stickers with bar codes. During the auction, guests can bid on any item by placing a sticker next to the price they are willing to pay. No bid is too high or too low. However, to guarantee the purchase, the bidder has to place a sticker next to the highest price listed on the bid sheet.

Anyone aware of the event is welcome to purchase tickets in order to attend the dinner and participate in the auctions, said Tara Gallivan, finance director.

More than 800 people attended last year's event, and the department is expecting that number to increase at this year's auction.

The production, lead by University Advancement under the direction of University Marketing, is scheduled for May. This year's host and auctioneer have not been confirmed.

HOLIDAY

■from page 1

want all people to feel welcome in our building at all times."

But the lobby seemed to be missing something and more people began commenting on the missing Christmas tree.

"We had a lot of people asking 'where's the tree' and 'we miss the tree,'" said Wess. "So we went to the TSU board and the AS president and asked what they thought we could do."

They reevaluated their first idea and

then decided that a Holiday Tree could be used to celebrate many holidays at the same time.

"People missed the tree," said Kurt Borsting, director of the TSU. "We honestly had a second thought at our first decision to decorate with a winter scene and realized that we could still be inclusive and also use the tree to be an educational thought. It's a nice way to feature the tree."

Christmas trees and snowmen aside, Borsting wanted to stress the true reason for all the decorations.

"The primary reason for decorating

is for the Holiday Toy Drive for the children that take part in Camp Titan," Borsting said.

Two snowmen in the lobby each hold a basket that contains snowflakes with the names of children in Camp Titan. The person that takes the snowflake will bring back an unwrapped new gift for that child to receive during the holiday season. In past years, the Christmas tree held the names of the children that participated in Camp Titan.

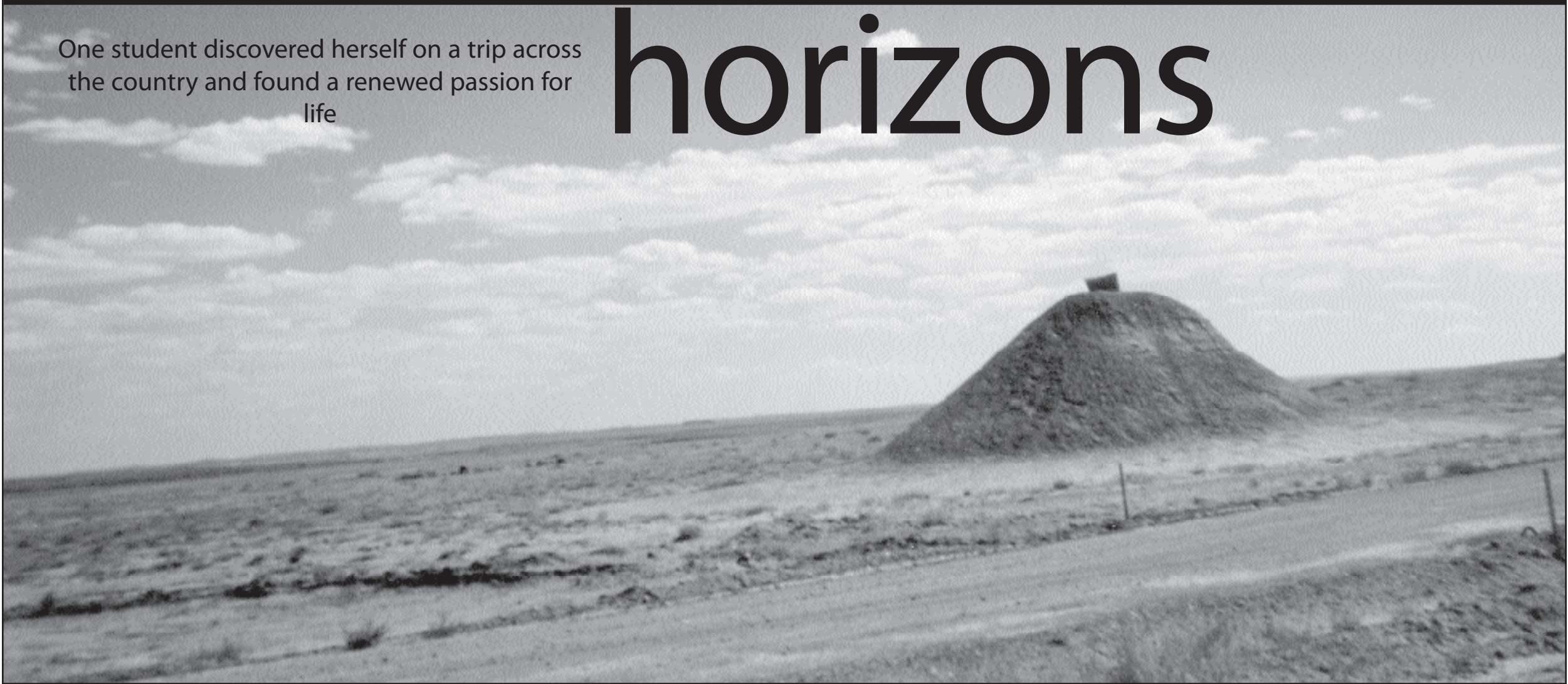
They received 450 gifts for the children last year and hope to get over 500 presents this year.

Classifieds 6*12

expanding

One student discovered herself on a trip across the country and found a renewed passion for life

horizons



Many hours were spent looking at rocks and dirt as I drove my way to Rochester.



Left, I visited several places including the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Mo., during my trip. Center, Oklahoma welcomed me while driving to Oklahoma City where I stayed for the night. Right, I briefly visited Amarillo, Texas, and noticed a plaque describing the state as I was exiting it on my way to Oklahoma.



Story and Photos by Rita Freeman

Over the Thanksgiving vacation, a friend asked me what I was thankful for this past year. At first, I stumped myself because several events occurred that propelled me into grasping the idea that more of the world existed.

In six months, I had surgery for the first time to remove a malignant tumor from my neck, I permanently ended my relationship of two-and-a-half years and I bought my first car. But, I think the one thing that stood out was driving 3,000 miles by myself to Rochester, N.Y., where I worked as a reporter for the Democrat and Chronicle newspaper for the summer.

After receiving my license in July of 2000, I contemplated taking a road trip. When I got my acceptance letter from the Chips Quinn Scholarship program in January, the opportunity to drive across the country arrived.

But my family was not supportive at all of the idea of me driving 3,000 miles alone. Within days, arguments erupted between my mother and I. Her view— it's too dangerous, I only had my license six months and I didn't have a car.

By February, I bought "Goldie," a 1995 gold Saturn SL2. As I drove my car home for the first time, I realized that when I received my license, I conquered my fear of driving. The next step was to prove to prove myself and drive long distance.

As the year wore on, my family helped me plan my trip to Rochester.

"Why don't you rent a car?" or "Just take the bus out there?" Statements like that continued for months.

But because I was only 24, renting a car would cost me \$1,000 or more a month and I refused to take public transportation.

To please my family I asked people to accompany me. However, nobody could afford to lose time from work.

Strike one.

In May, my family and I contemplated my flying out

to Boston and shipping my car there. Too expensive. Shipping my car alone would cost between \$727 and \$904, plus a \$220 plane ticket.

Strike two.

Finally, in the beginning of June my mom suggested I fly to Boston where my Aunt Boly would drive me to Rochester and a friend of hers would lend me a car. I investigated further because it sounded too good to be true.

"My friend doesn't know you, so I don't think she would lend you a car," Boly said. Strike three.

About one week before I wanted to leave for Rochester, my mom informed me that Boly would fly to Los Angeles and she and I would drive together.

My mom and I would split the cost of the Boly's plane ticket and we would leave three days after she arrived in Los Angeles.

That plan also crumbled. My aunt could not fly out for various reasons.

During our phone conversation, she too suggested the same idea previously mentioned.

"Why don't you ship your car out and buy a plane ticket?" she asked. "It's only about \$1,000."

I tried to reason with her, saying that I would be without a car for a week plus I would not be able to afford it. I knew she wouldn't end me the money.

By this time, I was clenching my fists, pulling my hair, cursing and screaming at anyone who tried to offer another "solution."

After all the madness and frustration of my family and their way of helping, I decided

that the only way I was going to Rochester is if I drove MYSELF.

June 15

I pushed back my trip two more days. My mom and I were still arguing about me driving alone.

"What if your car breaks down in the middle of nowhere and you can't get help?" my mom argued.

Though my step-dad sided with my mom, he was a great mediator. He and I didn't fight.

With two days to pack, buy food and a membership to AAA, I hustled. I received a TRIPTIK, mapping my route from Torrance to Arizona to New Mexico through Northern Texas to Oklahoma through Ohio and Indiana to Rochester, N.Y.

My mom shopped for turkey meats, bread and other condiments at Costco. Though she disagreed completely with how I was traveling, we reconciled.

I dumped my closet into one monster suitcase —20 pairs of shoes and about 65 articles of clothing — and three carry-on-sized bags. My giant suitcase dominated the trunk while the other three bags and a box of water piled into the back seat and the cooler sat up front with me.

June 17

After all the fighting, turmoil and confusion, my departure date arrived. I stood at my front door crying and hugging my family goodbye as my dog barked and jumped up and down believing she was taking a ride in my car.

I waved goodbye to my family, not concentrating on the road and almost hitting the rear bumper of my neighbor's red Pontiac. My family laughed as I drove away.

My first stop was Phoenix to visit a friend, now my boyfriend, for the night.

Throughout the 6.5-hour drive, my heater was set on high to prevent my car from overheating. By the time I arrived in the oven that was Arizona, I needed to wring out my sponge of a car seat and I

was so sticky, it felt like my body was covered in honey. My knee-length black skirt and the red T-shirt was not a cool outfit either.

After the first night in 100-degree weather, I journeyed to Flagstaff (another six-hour drive). I rested for two hours at a dinosaur park/ Native American museum. As any typical tourist, I snapped almost an entire role of film of a triceratops, a tyrannosaurus rex, buffalo and a sod hut.

I stopped in Albuquerque, N.M. for the night. I almost rear-ended the Lincoln Town Car that was driving 65 mph, while I, at my average speed of 95 mph, observed the beauty of the region. Red-rock mountains dominated the scene along with green shrubs and again over-bearing heat.

Throughout the week, I drove between six and eight hours each day. I ate tuna and turkey sandwiches with Pringle chips. The weather varied from 100 degrees in one state to torrential storms in another.

Traveling through each state, I bought obscure souvenirs like a Route 66 Root Beer bottle or brochures describing the local town I rested in from the many gift shops on every highway exit.

However, traveling by myself proved lonesome since my only company was my stuffed Dalmatian and TiggerPooh. I called my friends and family every 20 minutes on my cell phone. A month later I learned how lonely I became when I received an \$800 bill. Calling everyone every night to let them know I was safe added to the charges.

Despite my lonely feelings, I was amazed that I drove across eight states without many problems. I drove on Route 66 after making a wrong turn and missing the freeway. I viewed the "Largest Cross Hemisphere" in the Western and I went to the restroom in the

Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Mo.

June 20

It was about 8:30 p.m. on that Thursday and thunder pounded while rays of lightening brightened the pitch-black sky. I reached the New York state border. With only a tank top and shorts on, I exited my car and ran toward the sign. Gleeefully, I hopped around and danced in a circle. I made it to New York.

I stayed in a \$40 room in a Buffalo inn and called my family and boyfriend. Every one sighed with relief that I arrived safe. They asked how fast I drove and when I would arrive to my destination.

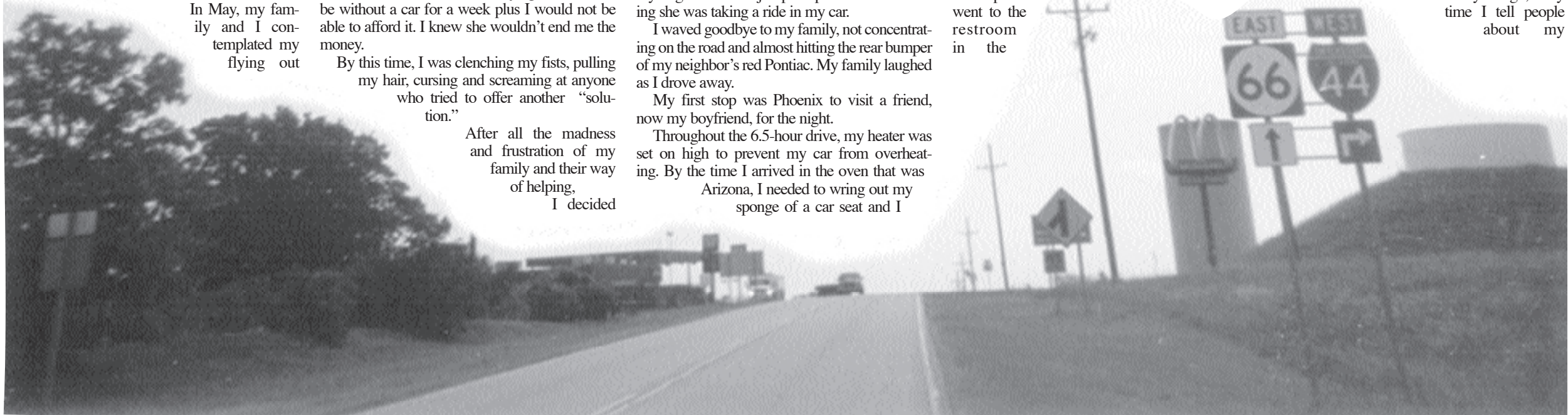
Late the next morning, I left the inn and drove for another hour or two and at last... Rochester. The city was smaller than I envisioned but I was glad to be there.

During the summer, three more mini road trips to Boston occurred. In September, I drove back from Rochester to Torrance, but this time to the delight of my family, my boyfriend accompanied me.

Recently, my sister and I spoke about my road trip and she told me that my family worried until the day I arrived in Rochester. Also, they were proud of me.

I smile now every time my mom tells her friends that her oldest daughter traveled across the country.

It's funny though, every time I tell people about my



Boots, slopes and lift tickets

Snowboarding and skateboarding merge to create the snowskate

By MARK VILLARROEL
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Is it a skateboard? Is it a snowboard? Is it the sled for the new millenium? Call it what you will, the real question is this: Are snowskates the next big craze?

A snowskate is a skateboard deck that slides directly on the snow.

It is similar in size and shape to a skateboard and, as there are no bindings, it allows the rider to perform tricks familiar in skateboarding.

“I t f u s e s s k a t e - b o a r d i n g a n d s n o w - b o a r d i n g i n a w a y t h a t h a s n e v e r b e e n d o n e b e f o r e,” said Alvin Beckford, a sophomore at Cal State Fullerton who has been skateboarding and snowboarding for more than five years. “It takes a bit of prac-

tice to get use to, but all the bangs and bruises pay off when you learn some basic tricks.”

So far, ski resort owners have not come to a consensus on whether snowskates will be allowed on their slopes.

However, with the popularity and recognition the new alpine trend is gaining, boarders may not have to wait for a decision as the snowskate can be used virtually anywhere there is snow.

So where did this new breed of winter recreation come from?

“Snowskate” is the trademarked name from Premier Snowskates. Premier Snowskates recently announced a new partnership agreement with the Yoshida Group of Portland, Oregon, which also owns and sells MLY and M3 Snowboards.

The agreement brings key distribution advantages, financial backing and additional support staff capabilities to the Snowskate Company, founded in 1998 by Andy Wolf, a former pro snowboarder with nearly a decade of experience in the industry.

“We’re excited about the possibilities and partnership. We believe in our product and are proud of the momentum we’ve been gaining,” Wolf told Trans World Snowboarding Magazine.

“And now with a little extra assistance, we have an excellent opportunity to expand our image and awareness worldwide.”

Now other manufacturers are jumping on the bandwagon and marketing names such as snowdecks, winterdecks and winterskates.

Santa Cruz, longtime skateboard and snowboard manufacturer, introduced the winterskate and Burton, the largest snowboard manufacturer, came up with the snowdeck.

Burton’s snowdeck is a double-decker with a metal-edged ski on the bottom that mimics trucks on a skateboard, with a skateboard-like deck on the top. The snowdeck is an expensive option, retailing for \$149.95.

Salomon has the PP3 snowdeck with a ski underneath similar to Burton and Fuse makes a snowskate with four mini skis on the bottom that “replace” the wheels of a skateboard; it sells for roughly around \$225.

Following a year of intense product development, team recruitment and market research, Premier Snowskates has launched three model offerings this year, including the TLG, an adult board; the R1, a board engineered specifically for kids; and the G3, a price-point board

for kids.

Premier Snowskates, who has a patent pending, says it is the only company to offer such an innovative product that truly combines elements of skateboarding and snowboarding with true skate influence.

Not only that, Premier Snowskates is using a host of skateboarding and snowboarding pros to exhibit their “new-found” but “old-fused” product to the masses. With signature boards decorated with pictures and graphics, they hope to tap into the skate and snow industry.

Compare that to a snowboard/bindings/boots/lift-ticket package, and you have the first reason why Snowskates are being asked for by name.

All names point toward success for this new idea in the skateboard/snowboard market.

With an introductory price that is similar to skateboarding and with no need for a lift ticket, snowskates appear to be the answer for snowboarders who want more after the lifts close and skaters with winter blues.

Photo courtesy of
premiersnowsk8.com

Things get interesting when the front runner

■COMMENTARY: With the Rams’ losing to the Buccaneers, St. Louis joins the prestigious 8-2 club as the playoffs, and the Super Bowl, draw near

By BRIAN THATCHER
Special to the Titan

With Tampa Bay’s upset win over St. Louis Monday Night, the road to the Super Bowl seems to be an uncertain one.

St. Louis, even with one loss, seemed to be the NFL’s elite team, posting offensive numbers the NFL has not seen since, well, since the last time the Rams did it, way back in 1999.

But they showed that their offen-

sive juggernaut could be halted. Their defense was also exposed for some of the deficiencies they had last year when they were among the league’s worst. For the first time this season, they have fallen into a tie for first place with the over-achieving San Francisco 49ers.

So as the season begins to weed out some of the pretenders, let’s take a look at the rest of the divisions and some of the top contenders.

First in the AFC, the biggest surprise has to be the Central Division

leading Pittsburgh Steelers. At 8-2, Bill Cowher’s patchwork team has showed that, with perseverance, any free agent problem can be overcome by chemistry. It doesn’t hurt to have “The Bus” and a defense that resembles the old “Steel Curtain” defenses of the 70’s, giving up a league best 12.1 points per game.

The team that many experts feel is the team to beat is the Oakland Raiders. They followed up an abysmal defensive showing against Seattle two weeks ago, in which

they gave up 319 yards rushing, with a strong win against the Giants to go to 8-2 and take a 2.5 game lead in the West.

The division that seems to be most up for grabs is the AFC East. Right now the Jets and Dolphins hold a slim lead over the Patriots, but New England may be a team to watch since back-up quarterback Tom Brady has resurrected their season, going 6-3 as a starter. He has gone 1-0 since Bill Belichick named him his starter for the remainder

of the season, over three-time Pro-Bowler Drew Bledsoe, who just returned from injury.

In the NFC, the Central division, with names like Moss, Favre and Sapp, is led by the no-name Chicago Bears. They have had a few close overtime victories, but luck may not be enough to get these upstarts into the Super Bowl.

And finally there is the NFC East. About the only story that has come out is the remarkable turnaround of Marty Schottenheimer’s Washington

Redskins. After a horrible start, and many grumblings that the over-involved owner, Dan Schneider, would run Schottenheimer, the Redskins became the first team in NFL history to start 0-5 and reel off five straight wins.

The league still has many powerhouses, but now that the Rams have come back down to earth, the remainder of the season may turn out to be one of the most competitive in recent history.

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